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An Inaugural Dissertation

110  
Laundice Pap. 2. March 7. 1829

In the Eyes of Doctrs of Medicine

In the University of Pennsylvania

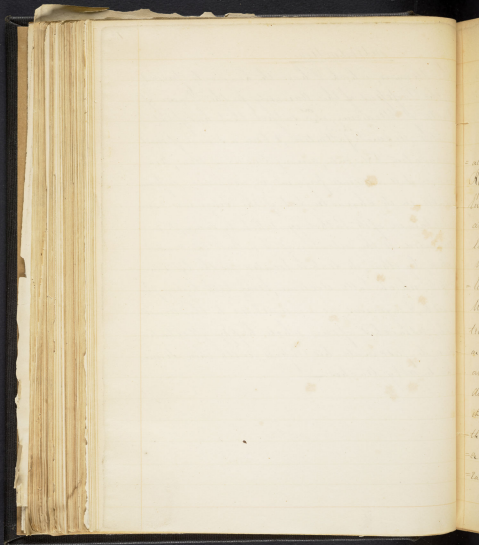
By E. H. Galbreath

of Philadelphia



Introduction

The Memoir, which I have the honour to present, to the Professors of this University for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine, is <sup>on</sup> a subject that has of late excited in sundry <sup>land</sup> parts, & been a source of much Speculation & Dispute, among Medical Men; Not because it is a disease frequent in occurrence, or from its nature in its character, but of the singular views entertained of its Pathology, which by some, it is imputed to the intrusion of Bile into the Circulation, by others, its seat is located in the Extremities; which latter doctrine, being both highly plausible, & ingenious, we are indebted to the most early Researches of one whose happy attributes it is, to fascinate his Pupils, with those theories he so ably teaches—



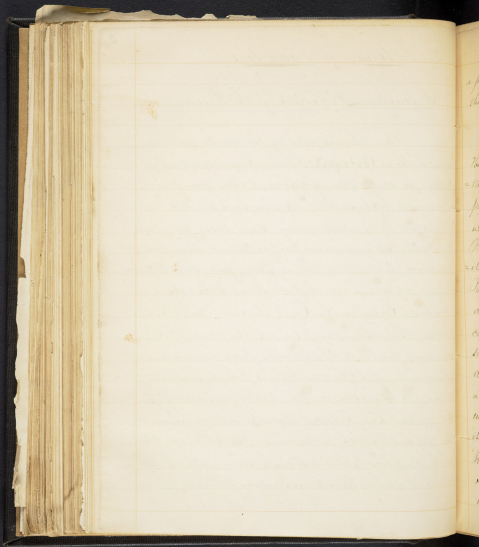


Etrovs, or Zauulice

2

Definition, & History of the Disease.

This Disease, was by the Greeks, denominated *atra Totous*, (*Interigo*), by the Romans, *Morbus Aegyus*, a corruption, of which Etrovs gives this ridiculous explanation, "it can say, he is to be attempted, by exorcisms of every kind, litanies, jocos, litanies, litanies, no que sunt tractationes, et que Aegyus, *Morbus Aegyus* Aegyus", by Pliny, just what I do believe, on which account, it seems to be called *Morbus Aegyus* or the Aegyus Disease, But Pliny tells us, that those who present the counts of Kings, are much liable to it, probably from an undue allowance of spiritous liquors, & high seasoned dishes, It has been called *Aurigo*, evidently from its golden hue, *Etrovs*, was also a term given to the Golden Thrush, on account of its plumage, & hence the bird was judged to be connected, with the disease. It was believed according to Pliny, that if



a person laboring under jaundice, should look at  
the Thrush, the bird would die, & patient recover.

### Symptoms.

The Disease is ushered in, with much languor, inac-  
-tivity, loathing of food, depression of spirits, Head aching,  
spasmodic tenderness, sickness of stomach, with py-  
-rretic Muscles, & vomiting, flatulency, & loose Stool. The  
Bowels grow sluggish, Excretions Clay coloured, a wh-  
-itish, which point out the absence, or deficiency of  
Bile. The Urine small in quantity, & some times a  
deep saffron tint, staining linen deep in it, thick  
considerably, with a bitter taste in the Mouth, Stomach  
 seldom altered, sometimes heavily increased, Skin  
dry, & Itchy, & with the Admixture, becomes tinged of  
a yellow, & sometimes green hue, first appearing  
in the Eyes, Face, Neck, & Throat, and from which  
it gradually spreads over the whole surface of  
the body, but this is not invariably the case, for  
sometimes the Eyes alone are affected, at other  
times, the face, An Anomalous case is narrate-



= board, when it was restricted to a longitudinal dis-  
 -tension of the body. When it occurs across the abdomen by  
 Kneeling, when the palmar side was alone relaxed,  
 & that only one side of the line was relaxed, Pain,  
 & Tenderness, of the Epigastric, & Right Hypochondriac<sup>34</sup>  
 region, aggravated upon pressure, & the pain is acute,  
 the pulse is apt to become hard, & full, & other sym-  
 -ptoms of pyrosis to appear. When the disease assumes  
 a chronic form, the distressing symptoms of inter-  
mittent pain, Intermittence, & sickness, <sup>continues</sup>  
 & in this state, Jaundice has been known to ~~continue~~<sup>continue</sup> for  
 a great length of time, occasionally for twelve  
 months, alternating itself with Intermittence, & giving  
 access to Fever. The general functions in this form,  
 & the constitution have become habituated to it, & so little  
 are they disturbed, that we see persons, in the course  
 of life, going abroad, with the jaundiced hue  
 covering their face, & hands, & not prevented from  
 engaging in any of the ordinary concerns of life  
 for a Lifetime, when it has taken on this form.



the yellow hue is not confined to the Skin & Mucous,  
 but pervades every intimate part of the Animal Mach-  
 ine, compact, as well as porous. The Pericardium, Heart,  
 Ventricle, Meninges & even the Brain itself, Carden-  
 = gro, & Bones, the Serous fluids, as the Synovia, Pleura,  
 Saliva, Sputum, Urine, & even Excretions, in the  
 Cavities of the body, are all found discoloured, &  
 hence, one can easily account for the bitter taste so  
 frequently met with in this disease, But of all the  
 Serous fluids, the Milk is the last that becomes tin-  
 = tured, owing it is supposed, in consequence of its not  
 = ing passing & excretion, from the fluids introduced  
 = ed into the Stomach, L. Kebleton, says, that in Wet  
 Nurses, the Milk is never tainted with the bile, either  
 in taste, or colour, but this assertion is going too far,  
 & is at variance with other Pathologists, who affirm,  
 that it must generally, take place.

Patients labouring under this disease, have from  
 an early period, been said to ask for all objects of a  
 yellow colour, from which we may infer, that the



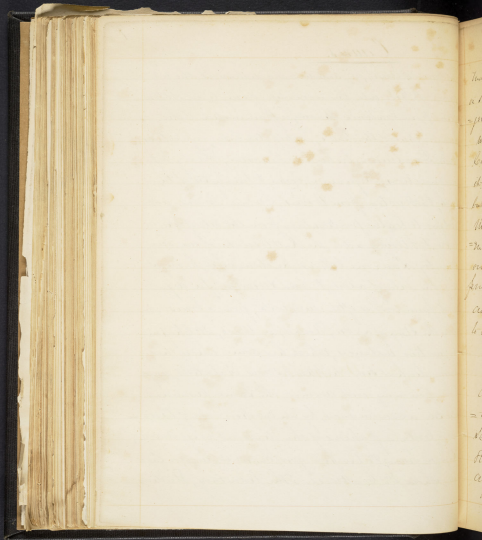


Humours of the Eye, are also tinged, with the vesicular  
 bile, & Communicate the Violence, thrown on the  
 Vitreous. The Adversaries of this Doctrine, are Galen  
 Sydenham, Boerhaave, & Astruc. I<sup>o</sup> who have  
 occasionally seen it, this was first descried, by Mr.  
 =Cruickshank, then Mr. Richardson, the latter offering  
 that all the patients he has at any time attended,  
 they have all contradicted his statement, with the  
 exception of two, when testimony he distrusts.  
 Dr. Keapman remarks, that his own experience  
 is decidedly against it, but he has seen the Vision  
 much affected, by dimness, a becoming cloud, or  
 mists, Dr. Ford from a single case in his own  
 person, can confirm the general opinion in favour  
 of it, when it does take place, the City Stateline deep  
 & perhaps all the humours of the Eye, are tinged, but  
 this does not <sup>at</sup> all times happen, & when the affected  
 objects must be seen, in their proper Colours.



Causes.

The most common, of Punction in humans, the bite =  
= source of Pile into the circulation owing to an obstruc-  
= tion from Calculus, & some Inflammation of the  
= lining Tissue of the Vessels, Insipidated bile, Inwardness,  
of the Lardaceous, Putrid & Rancid, Heavy Repa-  
= tive Congestions, Rupture, Tetanus & Paralysis of the  
= Lungs, Obstruction from Worms, Certain Poisons accor-  
= ding to Galen, particularly from the bite of the  
= Aspid. I would add the Rattlesnake of our own  
= Country. Sauroni tells us, he observed it brought  
= on by the bite of a Cat, & a Man & a Woman & a dog.  
Local punction is often induced, from a bruise, or  
= from the sting of a Bee, Hornet, or Wasps, Dr. Chapman  
= says in two instances, which has come under his  
= notice, he has seen the Skin & some Reactions, tinged  
= from poisoning with arsenic, the same person has  
= also seen a case induced, by an excessive use of Mercu-  
= ry, Certain poisons of the kind, as Grief, Anger, &  
= Rage, or Fear & Excessive grief, caused it, in two cas-  
= es, where Dr. C attended. The sedentary, Studying,



Indolent, & Dyspnoea, Asthenic, & Hypochondriacal,  
 or such as are hampered by Gout, are particularly sub-  
 =ject to it. Criminals, by Habit, are also liable to it,  
 whether this arises from confinement does not appear,  
 Conceivably from the depletion of a gun, on occasions  
 it. Aristotle says <sup>in</sup> de gustu, it is incident to infancy,  
 but generally surt with in them advanced in years,  
 Thales more than females, but here, there is a differ-  
 =ence of opinion, for we are told by Celsus, that  
 out of one hundred patients, there were fifty two  
 females, & fifty eight males, but by several other  
 authors we learn, that females are often subject  
 to it, on account of their sedentary, & ill Habits.

### Diagnosis

Any person having ever seen it, cannot mis-  
 =take it, Yellowness of the Skin, & Eyes, Urine  
 scanty, & Saffron Coloured, & a want of it in the  
 Stool, will be sufficient to distinguish this, from  
 any like disorder.



# Prognosis

9

I need say but little, if secret, & only functional  
 arrangements exist, by concerting, obstructing the flow  
 of bile, it may be easily cured, & cured nearly as  
 respects that of the pancy. The Chronic form of the  
 I affix our Mark, & the Misadonia of the pancy fatal, &  
 Attacks from Gall Stones by Heludon are seldom fat-  
 =al, or from Hystrina, Pythiancy, &c but Cease, after the  
 Cause is removed, We are to prognosticate favourably  
 when the Secret Matter is copious, & more Malin-  
 =al, The Urine secreted, in large quantities, & depo-  
 =iting a deep coloured sediment, & tending to stain lin-  
 =en deposited in it, with improvement, in the appa-  
 =ring of the Countenance, & subsidence of Gastric  
 Distress, return of Appetite, & of the Digestive powers  
 Critical discharges of blood from the Menstruation  
 be considered favourable. But when, & when in  
 =in in the Hypochondriac, & Epigastrium, being  
 with quick pulse, loss of strength, Water in the  
 Misadonia, Chills, Anasarca, swelling,  
 & Recup. with, are in great danger, & portend  
 certain Death.





## Autopsic Examination

The Liver, which is commonly thought to be,  
the chief seat of the Disease, is very much affected,  
& altered in structure, at different times in Mercurial  
Change, at all takes place, for according to Boer-  
= haave he has frequently seen, in Scurvy patients, the  
Mercurial Change . . . in the Liver, the thickening  
in the Duct, & the Calculi present; at other times,  
Calculi are found of various sizes, in the Duct,  
from that of a Pin, to a Nutmeg, being like the  
gall, of a yellowish, brownish, or green colour.

Dr Saunders experiments prove, that they consist  
chiefly of a vitriolic matter, with a little cal-  
= careous earth, combined with the Muriatic, &  
Volatilis Alkali. The Bile is altered, both in  
taste, colour, & consistence, & according to Dr Boer-  
= haave it is acid, saltish, whitish, black, green, very  
= viscid, & thickened; as dense, as Elder-berry,  
translucent, & limpid, as the white of Egg; coar-  
& granular, as the spawn of frogs.—



# Pathology

11.

On entering this part of my subject, much difficulty presents itself, as to what the proximate cause of this disease seems not determined, & still remains undecided in much obscurity. The doctrine of the Absorption of bile has had many admirers, & been supported by men of experienced talents; that it does not depend ~~on~~ exclusively, on an absorption of the bile into the Circulation, has been satisfactorily proved by Geshelricht, a German Physician of high celebrity, who reports a case of the disease which on post mortem examination was found to consist of a Galle Bladder, & by Portal, who took the cystic duct of an animal, without producing the disease in question. Dr. Chapman says, that he has long entertained doubts, whether it could be assigned, to either species of Bile. (The reason in this way) Were it owing to this cause, the disease would make its appearance at any time, whenever bile was exposed to Lacteal, & Absorbat vessels, & when large quantities were



accumulation, in the Stomach, & Lardening;  
That sometimes the Stool denote the want of  
bile, it is not invariably the Case, Dissection  
as I have before mentioned, prove in many in-  
stances, that there is no obstruction in the Duct,  
from Calcuta, Trisepated Bile &c. & were it in  
the Circulation, it woud not the whole complexion  
coloured, but this is not the Case, for the serum  
alone is affected. —

The Secreting function of the Liver, in this disease  
is entirely suspended, & then is very rarely any  
glaucous bile found, The fluid that excretes it,  
is altered both in Colour, taste, & Consistence.

Now that absorption does take place, is it not  
presumable, that the Skin &c. woud take on the  
same Tint, as the colour of the bile absorbed,  
but does this take place, certainly not, as it  
most generally confines itself, to the yellowish  
hue, with but very few exceptions, & the obstruction  
is the Cause, why is the yellowish hue often



= lines conjoined to the Eye, Face, a long oblique  
 section of <sup>the</sup> body, for there is the greatest intimacy  
 of connection between the whole of these parts, & at  
 the eye, so ought the other, in like manner to be  
 affected.

Requiescences, & Lacteal absorption, has been  
 brought forward, by the supporters of this doctrine,  
 in regard to the first, by its entering the ascending  
 vena cava, & thence it is supposed to enter for  
 the work during that the most bland substances  
 that we are acquainted with, & thence into the  
 Blood vessels, with produce sickness, & finally, even  
 in some instances Death. Dismissing the latter  
 that is, Lacteal Absorption, every one is well ac-  
 quainted, that these vessels are situated in the  
 Intestines, & if the nearest Cause be removed, that  
 it is owing to Calculi, & spasm <sup>or</sup> obstructing the  
 flow of bile, How can Lacteal Absorption take  
 place, when these Vessels, or the Ductus communis  
 & Chelidochus, are blockaded, & not a particle





of bile, is to be found in this case, & we are told  
 by Ponsse a recent writer, that the disease is  
 accompanied than even of unusual secretion  
 of bile, called Cholera; Brissot examined, the  
 Lactated pupils of a person who had died of Cholera,  
 & no trace of bile, could be discovered, it therefore  
 seems impossible, that absorption should take  
 place, The Liver is in a morbid state, & its secre-  
 tory action, so far as regards its healthy re-  
 cre is suspended, & were it owing to absorption,  
 we would have to restore its late energies, before  
 jaundice could be produced, for we are taught  
 that it is incompatible for two actions, to go on  
 at the same time. What becomes of the Bile  
 secreted, before this morbid state of the Liver takes  
 place, we are unable to say, it either remains  
 stagnant, or else it passes off with the stool.  
 The use of the Opium is not sufficiently un-  
 dertaken, it has been thought to stimulate the  
 Lactals, & maintain the peristaltic motion of



The Tolstons, yet in Independence left to perform their  
 office, without help, & in searching for action it peculiarly  
 suited, & the Tolstons, without this family, leave to them  
 & Burr. Town, would like as for service & action  
 in promoting the Western views of the latter gentleman  
 in giving an example, of a white, that for well,  
 dignified well, & had equal blood, who was worth-  
 less without a Gull Bladder, in any Doct, in Dues,  
 leading from the Cove, to the Duckpond

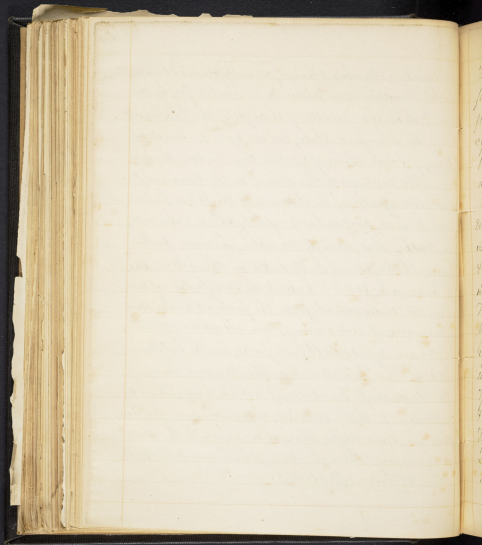
The Retention of Urine, absorption does not take place, neither can there be any, in Retention of Bile, cases we recoded, like this we have been discharged from the Stomach, Catarrhs of Discharge, from the breast, (Pit) from the Salivary Glands, in persons having abscess in other parts, but it does not follow that it is owing to absorption, for those parts having taken on themselves, a vicarious office, if Bile is absorbed, it must be explained in the same manner. No doubt, it will be asked, Does not the vitruous part become turgid? The Catarrhs exist in every part of the Animal Economy, will be



deemed a sufficient cause). It is now a well est-  
 ablished fact, that Irritation, or Inflammation, in  
 the Mucous Tissue of the Stomach, & Duodenum, will  
 sometimes produce Jaundice, when no obstruction  
 could be detected in any of the biliary ducts. That  
 Jaundice, does not depend on an obstruction of Bile  
 is obvious; in Dr Ferriar's whose opinion is entitled  
 to a great share of confidence, remarks, that the yell-  
 ow colour, is frequently met with, in Jaundice, &  
 Yellow Fever, is owing to an altered secretion in the  
 sebaceous Glands, of the skin, in support of this, he  
 says, that the discharge from the Testicles, in the  
 latter disease are not Clay coloured, the secretion from  
 the Kidneys is pale, & turbid, & not of a brownish or  
 Yellowish colour, which is one of the prominent  
 symptoms of Jaundice. The colour of the skin, is  
 owing to a morbid change in the Excretory vessels,  
 from Irritation of the Chyliferous Viscera, arising  
 from any of the remote Causes, by which the Cop-  
 perous, Lymphatising, the serum of these vessels



undergoes a morbid change, as in typhus febrilis, &c.  
 Local functions can arise & accumulated for, by the  
 loss of natural vitality of the capillaries, the capillaries  
 being in a languid state, are disposed to secrete a  
 fluid, of some shade of yellow, thus tinting the lymph-  
 atic. We meet with this colour, in the Cachexia, &  
 Catarrhic affections, in diseases of the Stomach, Catarrh =  
 & some diseases, particularly of a typhoid character.  
 In death, it is through morbid, however passed  
 before the corpse is really taken on this yellow hue.  
 I have now passed, I hope, to the satisfaction of every  
 candid individual, from the facts adduced, that  
 Jaundice is not owing to an absorption of Bile;  
 & we are compelled to look for it, in the system  
 itself. The irritation is in the Mucous lining of  
 the Stomach, & Duodenum, & not the Liver. This is  
 extended to the Capillaries, in consequence of which  
 there are some slight changes, wrought in the fluids  
 circulating through them, which are marks of  
 the typhoid affections.





In the Management of this disease, we shall frequently find our expectations far from being realized, for there are few diseases that can boast of a greater number of cures, than Jaundice, the whole class of the Medicine Men have at times, been exhausted, & articles totally different in their action, have produced the like effect.

When there is little fever, & no pain existing, we generally evacuate the Alimentary Canal; & for this purpose Rhus is our Cordly called for, then purgation, as Calomel, & Jalap, & keep the bowels afterwards open with some mild stimulant. The next step is Mesuring. Then two Claps, Emetics, & Cathartics, act alike, by exciting the action of the Liver, relieving the oppressed, & loaded, stomach, by a strong insurrection made on the whole of the Intestinal Canal, If it commences with fever, a full, strong, & hard pulse, & much local pain, Blood letting, both General, & Topical, must be freely employed, The stomach, Saccharum, & Lemp, are all involved in Torment = ation, Congestion, & Phlogosis, to relieve this, is



of primary importance, & nothing proves so salutary  
 as Topical Bleeding, by Cupps, & Leeches, over the  
 Epigastrium, & Hypochondriac Region, & when this  
 cannot be had recourse to, <sup>we</sup> must make use of  
 Counter Irritants, by Blister, which in some cas =  
 tances, with severe affections, when caused by cal =  
 cule, & gases & obstructing the duct, it must be  
 removed as <sup>speedily as</sup> possible, & with this view, to produce  
 Relaxation, & prevent inflammation from ensu =  
 ing, we must resort to Warm Suctions, At Deliquium  
 Animi, the Warm Bath, Topical Fomentations,  
 & Bleeding, blisters, & as a general Evacuant, & when  
 the quantity to be given depending on circumstances,  
 sometimes in large dose, generally in form of Pills, as  
 the Stomach is it may be probable that every thing  
 taken into it is immediately rejected, & especially  
 fluids. Questions, have been recommended, in the  
 form of the diuretic, when the Calculi are not large  
 to favour their expelling, by Constricting the uret, &  
 distended the Bladder, with the whole of the



Stomach becomes, but when pain, a few exist, by which, we are made acquainted of the presence of Inflammation, they are indispensable, & on no account should be omitted to.

The New class of Medicines, which now demand our attention, are those once supposed to destroy a distant Calculus by suspending a solvent Urinary A Mixture of Ether & The solution has been highly extolled, & has employed by many practitioners on the Continent, as a solvent of Biliary Calculi with the most decided success.

Dr. Chalmers says, if beneficial it is as an Antispasmodic, or Carminative, & not as a Decobution, a solvent. M. Cassin's Ducloux appears that of late, he has cured all whom he met with suffering from Gall Stones, his plan is, after continuing the use of Emmetics, & opium Medicines, to give his patients a mixture of 3 parts Sulphuric Ether & 2 of the spirit of Turpentine in the dose of ʒj to ʒij very morning.



upon which he direct some wine drink, such  
as Calm Tea, Milk whey, heat broth &c. We are  
told that Quincke had been Bilious Colic  
disposed & discharged by stool, by this method.  
The 3 Radix, both in this case, & Cancer  
state have many admirers, & certainly have  
much better pretensions to favour, Colic & loos  
is the form generally given, combined with  
Aloes, Rhubarb, & Calomel, in equal portions,  
yet then do not invariably act as Stimuli in  
Nervous Cases, it apparently does, in Rheumatism  
I think a case, where the patient has been in  
the habit of taking  $\frac{ij}{j}$  of scap for several years,  
in Post Matum Examination, was found  
in his Bladder stones without number, which  
seem not to have been acted upon by the scap,  
The Common Dutch Mixture made according  
to the annexed prescription, is sent to Mr. your  
notice. Q Carb-Polyp. Gum Arabic  $\text{℥} a$   $\frac{ij}{j}$   
Expt <sup>Expt</sup> Radix  $\frac{ij}{j}$  Aqua  $\frac{ij}{j}$  Expt ℞ Mentha ℞





the purpose is the following

By Count: Potapka Jp. Sake. Uspau = Gum Arabic  
(a a) Jp. Alcohol diluted 10j to be given on the  
stomach, so that the ingredients, may be well mix'd,  
& dissolved, which will require several days  
Dose of each is half a wine glass, for several  
successive fastings, if it act deliciously omit it  
for one day, & then recur to the same remedy,  
The Acid, both Mineral, & Vegetables have  
been employed, Cider & Lemonade <sup>is</sup> the best  
in this complaint is to make, & keep up, a strong  
& constant inspiration on the whole of the  
respiratory Canal, & for this purpose we make  
use of the Extract of the Buttermilk, England  
Cathartics of Richey, For 1 to 2 days put out  
Next when the Coa does not give way, an alter-  
native course of Mercury, & then the Nitro-Mu-  
ricatic Bath, or give internally, Te<sup>o</sup> Sack of  
Russet Square England is due the Credit of  
having first discovered, the immediate powers



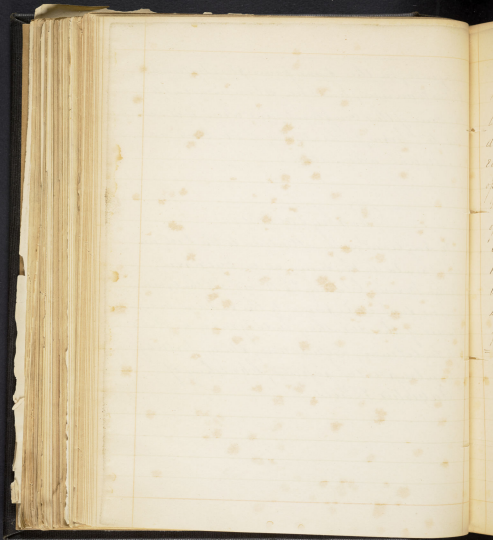
of this article in this disease, Aqua Regia is  
 the Name given<sup>ly</sup> it, is composed of 3 parts Nitric  
 & 2 of Sulphuric, or vice versa, to be mix<sup>d</sup> with  
 the same quantity of Spring the Bath to con-  
 sist of 3℥ of the diluted acid, to every gallon  
 of Water, The bath has been employed by  
 Dr Scott with a beneficial result, that almost  
 all cases depending on a Morbid Secretion  
 of Bile, or when the Secretion, is defective,  
 superabundant, or diseased, he finds it  
 to increase the flow of bile, & when employed in  
 the midst of an attack from Calculi, of any  
 % in the Ducts, it often acted as a chaser, &  
 produces instant relief. Mineral Waters  
 have been highly extolled in all Hepatic  
 affections, and likewise of advantage in this  
 disease, a Journey to the Springs, or riding on  
 Horseback, by giving tone to the Primæ viæ,  
 & assisting the secretory action of the Liver,  
 & not by dislodging the Stone, as formerly



imagined, on the same principle Electricity  
& Galvanism, has been recommended, to  
the cure of this complaint, and when, it is owing  
to Tetan, & Paralysis, of the Larynx, use  
of Sigatæ advantage.

### Prophylactics—

Be particularly attentive to the Diet, which  
should be the same as in Dyspnoea,  
To the Bowels, Clothing &c Avoid all the exciting  
causes such as Exposure to the sudden vicissitudes  
of the weather, Indulgence in Habits  
of Indolence, Depressions, Study, fasting  
of Intemperate passions, Choking of  
Anger & Cauts.—



### Conclusion

I must now Gentlemen, hasten to a close, having  
 too long trespassed on your time, & patience, & before  
 doing so, please to accept my warmest acknowl-  
 edgements, & especially, & Individually, for the many  
 opportunities of improvements, which your lectures  
 have afforded me, & to the enlightened Policy  
 of the Faculty, do I stand, too, fold indebted, for  
 without the aid of his lectures, & 1<sup>st</sup> Member of  
 the Medical Council, my subject would have  
 been brought forward, without argument to  
 submit it. I trust it should appear that I have  
 followed him, too closely in the order, & arrange-  
 ment, of the disease under consideration,  
 I flatter myself that a due share of allowance  
 will be made by him, & being <sup>instructed by</sup> necessity, not  
 choice, with in some measure atone for its  
 many, & many imperfections. —

